

Agriculture in Desert Areas

1660. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the reasons for the stagnation of agriculture in the desert areas of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to seek the help of Israel to promote agriculture in the desert areas of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to develop agriculture in the desert areas of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per information available, the area under agriculture in Rajasthan has not stagnated. The net sown area has increased from 131.12 lakh ha. in 1960-61 to 169.38 lakh ha. in 1992-93. The net irrigated area has increased from 17.52 lakh ha. to 44.71 lakh ha. and rainfed areas from 113.60 lakh ha. to 124.67 lakh ha. during the corresponding period. Further according to information furnished by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, there is no stagnation in the production and productivity

of important crops grown in desert areas of Rajasthan, as given in the Statement attached. However, there is fluctuation in some of the crops mainly due to the prevailing weather conditions at the time of growth stages of the crops.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal under consideration at present for seeking the help of Israel to promote agriculture in the desert areas of Rajasthan.

(d) Central Arid Zone Research Institute has developed and perfected the technologies of sand dune stabilization, shelter-belt plantation, silvi-pasture development, arid horticulture development, Agroforestry, Integrated farming systems etc. During the last few years the area under fruit plantation mainly Ber and Pomegranate has increased considerably. The area under vegetable and spices has also been increased where Irrigation facilities are available. These technologies are being tested by the Scientists of the institute in Rajasthan under Transfer of Technologies project like Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Operational Research Projects (ORPs) and Desert Development Programme (Transfer of Technology) etc. In addition to the Institute, the State Government agencies are also involved in the Transfer of Technologies to the user agencies.

STATEMENT

Area, Production and productivity of Major Crops of Arid Zone (1988-89 to 1993-94)

Name of the Crop		1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1993-94
Bajra	Area	4576	4020	3842	3736	4074
	Production	1608	1069	1604	619	2039
	Productivity	351	266	417	166	500
Kharif Pulses	Area	1318	1419	1602	2162	1589
	Production	486	296	457	143	456
	Productivity	369	209	310	66	287
Seasum	Area	227	296	372	485	314
	Production	38	84	118	185	69
	Productivity	167	284	317	175	220
Wheat	Area	536	503	611	557	768
	Production	1317	1064	1444	1387	1686
	Productivity	2457	2115	2363	2490	2195
Rapeseed & Mustard	Area	488	502	687	751	785
	Production	472	460	505	826	606
	Productivity	967	916	735	1100	772

Area in 000 ha.

Production in 000 tons

Productivity in kg/ha.